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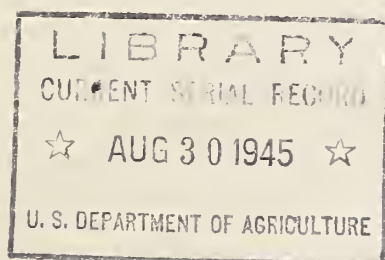
# Foreign Crops and MARKETS



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### MEDITERRANEAN FRANCE A DEFICIT FOOD AREA

Mediterranean France, now being invaded by the Allies, is, in contrast to Normandy and Brittany, a deficit food area. But while production of the main staples is small, the Mediterranean region before the war furnished half of the large French wine output and had substantial surpluses of fruits and vegetables.

Climate, soil, and topography favor vine and horticultural rather than field crops. In the four coastal departments east of the Rhone, the area under vines in 1937 was 67 and that under gardens and orchards 24 percent as great as the field-crop area. In the four coastal departments west of the Rhone, vineyards were still more important, covering 63 percent more land than field crops. Much of the agricultural land both east and west of the Rhone consists of meager pastures grazed mostly by sheep.

In this region of specialized farming, production of bread grains, sugar, meat, and fats in pre-war times was insufficient to cover even the wartime ration requirements. Since transportation difficulties, hoarding, and black market operations prevented a reasonably equitable distribution of French supplies, the wartime food problem of Mediterranean France could not but be serious, even in some of the rural areas.

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## WORLD TRADE IN COTTONSEED AND OIL NEARLY DISAPPEARS

Cottonseed and oil have become outstanding trade casualties of World War II, despite the fact that production has remained near pre-war levels. The world's export trade in cottonseed in pre-war years amounted to around 800,000 short tons annually (excluding Japanese-occupied areas) but it has practically disappeared since the war began. In addition, exports of cottonseed oil from all allied and neutral countries have declined from a pre-war level of approximately 300,000 tons to less than 40,000 tons in 1943.

These drastic reductions may be attributed to four principal factors, all of which are directly associated with the war. One of these is the fact that wartime shortages of shipping space did not permit the movement in international trade of such bulky cargo as cottonseed. Another is that many producing countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Peru, and Argentina (in 1942) restricted or banned the export of cottonseed and oil in order to protect the supply of edible oils for domestic consumption. Still another is that in other surplus producing countries, such as Egypt and India, the production of cottonseed has been reduced below the normal domestic needs. Finally, China and Manchuria, important sources for cottonseed normally crushed in Japan and exported as oil to other parts of the world, are no longer accessible.

The United States, the world's largest producer of cottonseed and oil, was on a net import basis during 1934 to 1938. Since that time, net exports have ranged between 1,000 and 5,000 tons, mostly to Allied Nations. The demand for cottonseed oil has in no way diminished. In fact it has become one of the most prized of edible vegetable oils, as evidenced by the fact that cottonseed oil composed 50.7 percent of the raw materials used in the manufacture of oleomargarine in the United States in 1943 and 50.9 percent in 1942, as compared with an average of only 17 percent for the 5 years, 1931-1935. Vegetable shortening produced in the United States in 1943 and 1942 was composed of cottonseed oil to the extent of 41.7 and 54.7 percent, respectively, as compared with 80 percent during 1931-1935. This reduction was due almost entirely to the shortage of cottonseed oil. The use of cottonseed oil for industrial purposes as well as a food item has become much more extensive in Latin America and India, where it has been substituted for olive, coconut,

and other vegetable oils formerly imported from Axis-controlled countries.

The wide variation in uses for cottonseed oil and the apparent wartime increase in demand where supplies are available have probably had no bearing on the production of cottonseed but may have caused a greater proportion of the crop to be crushed for oil. Cottonseed is a byproduct of the cotton industry, and production is determined almost entirely by the demand for cotton. An estimate of world cotton production in 1943 indicates that cottonseed production amounted to about 13,000,000 short tons, roughly equivalent to the 10-year average, 1925-1934, and slightly less than the 1938-1941 average of 14,000,000 tons. The distribution of production, however, since the beginning of the war has changed considerably.

Production in the United States in 1943 amounted to 4,700,000 tons as compared with an average of 5,350,000 tons for the preceding 5 years. In Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina, record cotton crops were harvested in 1943, but exports of cottonseed and oil from Brazil and Mexico were sharply reduced because of high prices and the increased domestic demand for vegetable oils. The 1943 cotton crop in Egypt was only one-third as large as the pre-war average because of acreage restrictions designed to alleviate a cotton-surplus problem and to increase acreage planted to food grains. During the 5 pre-war years, 1934-1938, Egypt exported more than 400,000 tons of cottonseed annually, mostly to the United Kingdom. Since 1942 production in Egypt has been insufficient for domestic needs, and most of the export surplus (100,000 to 125,000 tons) produced in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and formerly exported to the United Kingdom has been diverted to Egypt.

Cottonseed production in India amounted to about 2,100,000 short tons in 1943 as



compared with a pre-war average of around 2,300,000 tons. India's exports of cottonseed have been insignificant since 1931 because of the development of a local cottonseed-oil industry for domestic markets. Cottonseed and oil produced in the Soviet Union does not exceed local requirements, and the export surplus in China is normally destined largely for Japan.

During the years intervening between World Wars I and II, the United Kingdom became the world's leading importer of cottonseed and the chief exporter of cottonseed oil. Imports of cottonseed averaged 700,000 short tons during 1934-1938, 80 to 85 percent of which was imported from Egypt, the Sudan, and British Colonies in Africa, and 10 to 15 percent from Brazil. Exports of refined cottonseed oil during these years averaged about 11,000 tons, mostly to the United States after 1934, although exports to other European countries and Canada were considerable. Cottonseed production in Egypt and East Africa were generally low in 1943, and exports from Brazil have been prohibited since the middle of 1941. As a result, crushing of cottonseed in the United

Kingdom has been temporarily abandoned, and cottonseed-oil imports are negligible.

Japan became the world's second largest importer and crusher of cottonseed about 1935. Imports of cottonseed, mostly from China and Manchuria, averaged 100,000 short tons during 1935-1938 and dropped to 11,000 tons in 1939. Exports of refined cottonseed oil averaged 11,000 tons during 1935-1938, nearly all of which was exported to the United States.

This reduced trade in cottonseed and oil, on account of the strong demand in producing countries where local shortages of edible oils exist, is likely to continue until the war ends, and possibly longer. Oleomargarine and vegetable shortening, derived to a large extent from cottonseed oil, have been substituted extensively for butter and lard in many countries during the war years, and a continuing demand may have been developed. World trade in cottonseed and oil and the use of cottonseed oil in post-war years, however, probably will be greatly influenced by the amount and price of competitive oils that will be available, mostly from the Far East.

C. H. Barber

### MEXICO REPORTS EXPORTABLE SURPLUS OF PROTEIN FEEDS

Supplies of oilseed cake and meal for export from Mexico in 1944 will be about 66,000 short tons, or approximately the same as last year's record figure, according to the latest estimates. About 33,000 tons were exported during the first 6 months of the calendar year, and a similar quantity, largely cottonseed, is expected to move out in the second half of the year. Increased oilseed production and crushings, particularly cottonseed, peanut, and sesame, largely account for the expansion in supplies, both for domestic use and for export. The active demand for protein feeds in the United States has also encouraged exports, especially of sesame, though recent action by the Mexican Government to reduce prices for domestic use has somewhat unsettled the export movement.

#### MEXICO: Estimated production of oilseed cake and meal, 1930-1944

YEAR	: COTTON- : SEED	: SESAME	: PEANUTS	: COPRA	: LINSEED	: PALM NUT	: TOTAL
	: Short	: Short	: Short	: Short	: Short	: Short	: Short
	: tons	: tons	: tons	: tons	: tons	: tons	: tons
Average 1930-1939 .....	43,530	9,340	666	17,762	1,550	1,193	74,041
1940 .....	43,311	17,319	2,890	33,498	1,548	1,091	99,657
1941 .....	54,903	17,865	5,119	43,496	5,643	1,273	128,299
1942 .....	69,100	30,332	4,671	14,976	19,275	2,110	140,464
1943 .....	77,903	45,656	7,109	12,001	10,616	2,364	155,649
1944 .....	82,562	41,698	29,242	13,095	2,847	2,728	172,172

From official and unofficial sources.

There are six main varieties of oilseeds crushed in Mexico, and their cake and meal residue furnishes important feed concentrates. In order of volume produced the chief ones are: Cottonseed, which accounts for about one-half of the total; sesame, about one-fourth of the total; peanut, copra, linseed, and palm nut. In addition to those mentioned, small amounts of rapeseed have been crushed during recent years, but the quantity of feed produced has not been significant and is excluded from totals shown.

Production of oilcake and meal in Mexico has almost doubled since 1938, reaching the estimated record amount of 172,000 short tons in 1944. The expansion in cottonseed cake and meal, which increased from 47,000 tons in 1938 to an estimated 83,000 tons in 1944, appears to be the largest factor in the increase, though larger outputs of sesame and peanut cake and meal have also contributed substantially. Plantings of sesame and peanuts are thought to be smaller this year, as a result of shifts to other essential crops, and production of protein feeds from these sources is expected to be less in 1945.

Domestic use of these protein feeds, which is largely for dairy cattle, shows an upward trend as a result of more widespread use and Government activities to lower the prices for home consumption. An average of around 102,000 tons used during the past 3 years contrasts with the average of 50,000 tons during 1930-1939. The price of these products, relative to other feed concentrates, is expected to be the dominant factor determining the amount used in 1944. With the Government attempting to assure adequate domestic supplies before permitting exportation, the use of around 110,000 tons in Mexico during 1944 is expected. Though the use of oilseed cake and meal in the country has increased considerably, it has not kept pace with the increased production, and the exportable surplus has been considerably above average since 1942.

The bulk of the exports usually go to the United States. Under normal conditions the largest shipments move during the last few months of the calendar year, since the crushings of the new crop of cottonseed and

sesame are well under way in October. The first cottonseed crushings are in the Matamoros area, beginning about July 15. The earliest shipments of sesame meal are usually expected in October. The principal production areas for cottonseed cake and meal, which make up a large part of the exports, are in the northern part of the country in favorable position for movement into the United States.

Exports for the remainder of the year are expected to include at least 22,000 tons of cottonseed cake and meal. While the cottonseed meal is in the most advantageous position for export to the United States, the absence of a price ceiling on sesame meal in the United States makes it more profitable to export that product at present, despite the higher freight charges. The exportable surplus of the protein feeds is partly dependent on Governmental policy and price considerations. An attempt to reduce domestic prices is reported to be under way, which, if successful, is expected to encourage home consumption thereby reducing the future exportable surplus somewhat.

MEXICO: Estimated disposition  
of oilcake and meal, 1930-1944

YEAR	PRODUC- TION	EXPORTS	APPARENT DOMESTIC UTILIZA- TION
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average 1930-1939:	74,041:	24,480:	49,561
1940 .....	99,657:	14,795:	84,862
1941 .....	128,299:	18,059:	110,240
1942 .....	140,464:	34,841:	105,623
1943 .....	155,649:	65,286:	90,363
1944 .....	172,172:	61,943:	110,229

From official and unofficial sources.

All oilcake and meal prices have more than doubled since the beginning of 1943 in the domestic market. Present quotations considerably exceed the official ceiling price of 200 pesos per metric ton (about \$37.35 per short ton in United States currency), and the Ministry of Agriculture is said to be working on plans for bringing the rates down to the ceiling level. Under new



regulations crushers may be compelled to supply specified amounts of meal to domestic markets before being issued permits to export.

In order to reduce the disparity between export and domestic prices, export taxes were increased considerably in May 1944. These taxes, known as "aforo," were raised to about \$7.71 per short ton on copra cake and on all oilseed cakes and meals not specified, to \$7.16 on sesame cake, and \$6.05 per ton on linseed cake. In addition, another export tax amounting to about \$3.70 per short ton is levied. By means of these

export taxes and other controls, the Mexican Government is attempting to reduce domestic prices of protein feeds to their ceiling. In contrast with the ceiling of 200 pesos per metric ton, which price has been nominally in effect for some time, actual quotations have been reported at higher rates since November 1943. Prices in April, when remedial measures were under consideration, ranged from 213 pesos (\$43.85 per short ton) for cottonseed cake to 268 (\$55.15) for sesame cake.

*Based on reports from the American Embassy in Mexico City.*

#### MEXICO: Exports of oilseed cake and meal, 1930-1944

YEAR	COTTON- SEED CAKE	COTTON- SEED MEAL	SESAME- SEED CAKE	COPRA CAKE	PEANUT CAKE	OILSEED: CAKE UNSPECI- FIED	OILSEED: MEAL, MISCEL- LANEOUS	TOTAL
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average 1930-1939 ...	17,128	3,274	34	-	-	4,044	-	24,480
1940 .....	4,194	1,505	1,656	2,980	-	52	4,408	14,795
1941 .....	2,664	1,090	44	8,106	-	4	6,151	18,059
1942 .....	8,686	4,128	823	2,986	-	177	18,041	34,841
1943 .....	17,604	12,592	12,894	-	1,700	1,850	18,646	65,286
January-April 1944 ..	5,636	8,015	4,458	-	396	28	7,280	25,813

From official sources.

#### TANGANYIKA ESTABLISHES NEW COTTON CONTROL

Under a recent order, the Government of Tanganyika Territory, British East Africa, assumed control of the sale and export of all cotton produced in the Lake Province. The order, based on the Emergency Powers Act of 1939, provides that the ginner is to be the sole purchaser of seed cotton grown in that Province. In buying seed cotton, ginnerers are required to pay a price fixed by the Government. Payments are to be made at the time of delivery. After the cotton is ginned it remains under Government control and can be sold only to approved exporters. Each ginner is required to hold the cotton until ordered to sell by the Government. Sales are then to be made only at fixed prices.

The purchase of cotton for export is limited to Government-approved exporters. In approving exporters, the Government will consider no exporter who during the 1935-1939 period exported less than 2,000 bales, or who did not operate for more than a full year during that period. After permission to export has been granted, the Government will limit the amount of cotton an approved exporter may ship in a season. This quota is to be based on the previous business of the individual or corporation. All persons

are prohibited from exporting or dealing in cotton without Governmental approval. Violation of the order is punishable by imprisonment for a term up to 2 years, or a fine of 2,000 shillings (about \$1,250), or both imprisonment and fine.

The Lake Province, located on the south and east shores of Lake Victoria, is the largest cotton-producing area of Tanganyika Territory. Production prior to the war was approximately 40,000 bales annually. Before World War I, the Tanganyika Territory was a

German possession, known as German East Africa. While some consideration was given to cotton, the principal export crop was sisal. After that, this area became a British mandate. The British promoted cotton production and are largely responsible for the establishment of the industry in that district.

While the Lake Province is the most important cotton-producing area of the Territory, it is still largely undeveloped. Large areas of good cotton land are available, but because of the primitive conditions under which the natives live, large scale expansion will be slow. It has been only since the completion of the railroad from Dar es Salaam to Lake Victoria that the district became important in the production of cotton. Prior to the building of the railroad, cotton was transported by steamboat across Lake Victoria to Uganda, and then by rail to the port of Mombasa.

Some of the potential cotton growing areas of this Province are in what is known as the "sleeping sickness" zone. Health conditions in the native villages have been a factor in the expansion of cotton production. The British Colonial Officers have made a constant fight to improve health conditions and to induce natives to produce food crops. With the aid of British associations interested in cotton production, general headway was being made in opening up large sections of the country prior to the present war. Roads were being built, sleeping-sickness areas were being cleaned up, and a certain amount of health and medical attention was being given to the natives. As is common through large sections of Central Africa, these improvements were neces-

sary before the natives could be induced to produce any kind of a crop they did not consume personally.

In the development and expansion of the cotton-growing industry in Tanganyika, the trader and cotton ginner have been important factors. As soon as an area began to produce cotton, a trader, usually from India, appeared in the village, and established a trading post. Cotton gins followed, and in many cases, these also were operated by Indians. Increasing quantities of cottonseed were distributed each year, and, in time, buying posts, some of them several miles from the gin, were established. Roads from the ginning point to these buying posts were opened, and the seed cotton was brought to the gin by truck. The ginner is traditionally the primary buyer.

After the cotton was ginned, it was purchased by an exporter, who in many cases was a representative of well-established cotton houses in Bombay. The cotton was exported usually to Liverpool or Bombay.

The Government of Tanganyika always has been a factor in the cotton-growing industry. In addition to its activities in the distribution of seed and the promotion of production, it has collected a tax on exports. But on the whole, private merchants have been relatively free to operate as they wished. Any individual paying his tax could purchase and export cotton. Under the recent order the Government assumes complete control and establishes a price for both seed cotton and lint. Exports are limited to approved exporters, and the entire industry is now under strict Government regulation.

*P. K. Norris*

## DEHYDRATION OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES GROWING IN MEXICO

Dehydration of fruits and vegetables has developed into an important industry in Mexico since the outbreak of the war. Further expansion depends much upon the possibility of marketing the finished products in the United States over a period of several years and the availability of machinery and equipment. At present there are about 20 dehydrating plants in Mexico, 8 having been constructed in 1943. In 1941-42, Mexico had 5 dehydrating plants which produced about 11,000 short tons of dehydrated chili. In addition, 2 or 3 plants produced around 330 tons of dehydrated bananas and banana flour, while 3 plants specialized in producing dehydrated milk products. In 1942-43, 3 new plants were put into operation, 2 of which were for banana products. The other new plant produced 12 tons of dehydrated onions and garlic. The dehydrated products were exported mostly to the United States.



In 1942-43, the output of dehydrated bananas was about 480 short tons and banana flour 220 tons. There are now 13 banana dehydrating plants, either operating or ready for operation. One of the largest of those about to open is located near Cordoba, in Veracruz. It will have a capacity of 22 tons daily. While it will dehydrate bananas principally, it can dehydrate any product that is in demand. If the plant could be operated at full capacity its annual output might run as high as 10,000 tons. Currently the greatest interest is in dehydrated banana flakes made from ripe bananas. At present the only factory equipped to dehydrate banana flakes is in Tabasco. Dehydration plants at Tabasco and Chiapas have available abundant supplies of bananas, but the main difficulties are transportation, labor, and electric power.

Pineapples have been dehydrated to some extent at Fortin, Veracruz. It is stated that the factory at that place may produce 110 tons of dehydrated pineapples in 1944. No difficulties are anticipated in marketing the finished product, and operators of other plants are thinking of adding pineapple to their dehydrated products. Small amounts of dehydrated papaya are produced at Fortin, Veracruz, and 5 tons may be produced per month.

Dehydration plants for chili are located in Baja California. The plants there have been quite successful, and owners are interested in dehydrating other vegetables. Production is estimated at slightly less than 2,200 tons annually. Vegetables can be produced to advantage in Baja California, especially cabbage, carrots, and onions. Difficulties in getting equipment from the United States for proper cultivation and irrigation, as well as supplies of seed and insecticides heretofore have held up production.

Mexico has only one factory dehydrating onions and garlic. This is located in Mexico City. In 1943 this plant produced 11 tons of onions and 12 tons of garlic. The factory was moved to a new location in April 1944 and is now producing 9 tons a week. Onions can be dehydrated during the winter and spring months, and the plant can be used to dehydrate garlic during the remainder of the year. Capacity for the year will be about 1,100 tons. Onions and garlic are prepared both in powdered form and in slices. Every 100 pounds of onions used yield about 8 pounds of the dehydrated products, whereas for every 100 pounds of garlic about 23 pounds of the products are obtained.

*Based on reports from  
American Embassy, Mexico City.*

## LATE COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

### GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS

#### CANADA'S WINTER GRAIN CROP LARGE; SPRING-GRAIN PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

The first official estimate of the winter grain crops in Canada places winter wheat at 20.7 million bushels, or about 7 million bushels larger than the 1943 crop. The winter rye crop, as estimated at 7.3 million bushels, is also slightly larger than last year's production.

The condition of the spring wheat crop on July 31 was officially estimated at 128 percent of normal, based on long-time yields per acre, compared with 111 percent on the

same date last year. The coarse grain prospects were also reported to be more favorable than last year, though not to the same extent as wheat, with percentages as follows, 1943 comparisons in parentheses: Oats 90 (79), barley 89 (83), and spring rye 86 (75).

A considerable amount of spring grain has been cut in the Prairie Provinces, with the greatest progress reported in southern Manitoba, dry sections of southern Alberta, and the Peace River area. While the prospects are generally favorable, some sawfly damage has been reported in dry sections of southwestern Saskatchewan, and hail caused damage also at a number of points in that

Province. Labor scarcity in many districts, however, constitutes a serious harvest problem, according to recent reports.

### EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE MILLET

Growers of millet in Egypt will be required to deliver to the Government a part of their 1944 crop, under the terms of a recent military order. The 1944 crop is expected to be slightly larger than in 1943, when the production was estimated to be around 34 million bushels. The fixed price is expected to be the equivalent of \$1.84 per bushel for yellow millet and \$1.64 per bushel for white millet.

Substantial quantities of millet will be required if the new bread formula calling for incorporation of one part millet or corn to two parts of wheat in the flour is to be adhered to. That mixture, dating back to the end of March, replaces the former admixture of 10 percent barley with wheat. Both wheat and barley crops are reported to be considerably smaller than the 1943 production. See also the August 14 issue for a statement about the wheat crop in Egypt.

### SWEDEN BUILDS GRAIN ELEVATOR

A large concrete grain elevator is reported to be under construction at the port of Landskrona in southwestern Sweden. The elevator, with total capacity of around 255,000 bushels, is to be equipped with modern machinery making loading and unloading operations possible simultaneously. According to reports, the elevator can be filled in 30 hours. It is expected to be completed in November for use by the Central Association of Farmers in Skane. The Minister of Agriculture has stated that the country's storage facilities for grain should be increased.

### ARGENTINA OPENS FUTURES TRADING IN CORN FOR FUEL

Corn for fuel was added to the list of commodities dealt in on the futures market in Argentina, as from July 20. Trading will

be in multiples of 100 metric tons (110 short tons), with no distinctions made between grain of the various crops. It is hoped that transactions through the new procedure may simplify purchases of substantial quantities of the surplus corn by industrial concerns for use as fuel. The official estimate of the surplus was placed at around 212 million bushels on July 14.

### VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS

#### COTTONSEED PRODUCTION IN ARGENTINA NEAR RECORD LEVEL

The third official cotton estimate for 1943-44, recently released in Argentina, indicates that cottonseed production may reach 240,000 short tons as compared with 226,000 tons last year and a previous 5-year average of 153,000 tons. Argentine cottonseed production is relatively small when compared with that in other producing countries, but due to circumstances associated with the war, Argentina has now become the leading exporter of cottonseed oil.

Exports of cottonseed oil from Argentina did not exceed 300 short tons until 1940, when 1,291 tons were exported. The total increased from 7,763 tons in 1941 to 8,186 tons in 1942, and 22,119 tons in 1943, despite the fact that exports were restricted and subject to export license between June 1, 1943, and April 24, 1944. The export surplus of cottonseed oil for 1944 may exceed the quantity exported in 1943 in view of the heavier production of all oilseeds this year in contrast to the 1943 yields reduced by drought. Canada is the principal export market for Argentine cottonseed oil, although considerable quantities have been exported to Switzerland and Sweden since 1940.

#### VEGETABLE OILSEED CROPS IN PARAGUAY MEET LOCAL NEEDS

The cottonseed derived from Paraguay's record cotton crop in 1944 amounted to about 32,000 short tons as compared with 15,000 tons in 1942 and an average of 15,000 tons for the preceding 5 years. The larger production of cottonseed, a better-than-average



crop of peanuts, and small quantities of sunflower seed are expected to supply the country's requirements for edible vegetable oils in 1944-45. Imports of edible oils during the 4 years 1937-1940 averaged about 45 tons, mostly packaged olive oil from Mediterranean countries, except in 1940 when 18 tons of edible oils were imported from Argentina.

The 1943-44 peanut crop was estimated at 14,000 tons (in the shell) or about the same as a year ago. Sunflower seed was cultivated on a commercial scale in Paraguay for the first time this year, and no production estimate is available.

### *COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS*

#### **THIRD ESTIMATE PREDICTS LARGE ARGENTINE COTTON CROP**

Following the usual pattern, the third estimate of the 1943-44 Argentine cotton crop is larger than preceding estimates, and it indicates that the current crop may exceed last year's record of 497,600 bales. The current estimate of 481,500 bales is substantially greater than both the first and second estimates (382,800 bales and 433,500 bales, respectively) and is about 97 percent of last year's record crop. Considering that in past years the third estimate has averaged about 95 percent of the final figure, indications are that the present crop may set a new record.

Farmers in Argentina planted about 12 percent more land to cotton this year than last, and weather conditions have, in general, been favorable to the crop. The increased acreage planted to cotton is thought to have been a result of the comparatively high price offered for cotton this year, supported by a Government loan.

#### **RECORD CROP ESTIMATED IN PARAGUAY**

Unlike the majority of agricultural commodities in Paraguay, the current cotton crop is estimated by reliable sources to be the largest produced in recent years. Present estimates are for a crop of approxi-

mately 52,200 bales, considerably larger than last year's drought-restricted crop of about 33,000 bales, and nearly double the 5-year average production prior to 1942 of 29,100 bales.

Approximately 90 percent of the present crop has been ginned, and practically all of the remainder has been picked, giving substantial basis to the new estimates. Estimates of cotton production have increased consistently since the beginning of the season, as favorable weather conditions have continued. An early season drought was broken just after the crop started maturing, resulting in increasing yields. Estimates of planted acreage, based on seed distributed by the Bank of Agriculture, are no larger than for last year, or about 100 000 acres. About two-thirds of the available supply of cotton in Paraguay has been sold, leaving about one-third, or roughly 20,000 bales, available for export markets.

### *FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS*

#### **PINEAPPLE PRODUCTION INCREASING IN PERU**

Peruvian production of pineapples this year is likely to reach 3,000,000 fruits compared with 2,000,000 in 1942. That fruit has gained commercial importance in Peru only since about 1930 when the volume of exports to Chile was increased. Chile is the principal export market. All exports are in fresh form, since no pineapples are canned commercially in Peru at present.

Pineapple shoots are planted in November and December in comparatively dry soils. Some planters inter-crop with beans the first year. Fields are weeded several weeks after planting. Land is irrigated every 2 months if water is available, but plants will survive sometimes if water is not applied for a period of 6 months. The fruit is harvested throughout the year but principally in February and September.

The Blanco (white) and the Morado (violet-colored) are the leading varieties. The fruit of the Blanco variety has the best flavor and is larger but does not ship as well as the Morado. For that reason it is



used for local consumption only. The Morado is believed to be a strain of the Red Spanish variety, and is the only one exported. It is grown along the coast on 84 plantations on a total of approximately 890 acres. A part of this acreage was planted recently and is not yet up to full production. The Blanco variety is grown in the Chanchamayo valley where around 25 acres are in production.

The average yield of pineapples in Peru is about 5,000 fruits per acre. Pineapples bear for approximately 10 years from one planting. When all of the next plantings come into maximum production it is quite likely that the local and export trade will no longer be able to absorb the crop as fresh fruit. Growers are hoping that a canning factory will be established to absorb the surplus. In 1943, Peru imported 500 cases of 2 dozen cans each of canned pineapples from Chile and 600 cases from the United States.

PERU: Pineapple exports to Chile,  
1933-1943

YEAR	EXPORTS	YEAR	EXPORTS	YEAR	EXPORTS
	: Short :		: Short :		: Short :
	: tons :		: tons :		: tons :
1933	: 49 :	1937	: 140 :	1941	: 226 :
1934	: 215 :	1938	: 184 :	1942	: 284 :
1935	: 163 :	1939	: 189 :	1943	: 429 :
1936	: 167 :	1940	: 231 :		: :

Official sources.

CANADIAN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE  
CROP PROSPECTS REMAIN GOOD

The August 1 official estimate of fruit production in Canada shows upward revisions for all fruits except strawberries, raspberries, and grapes. British Columbia shows an increase for all except berries.

Apple production is now estimated at 15,814,000 bushels, an increase of 23 percent over the 1943 crop. First apples are now moving to market. Pears are placed at 605,300 bushels, or about 17 percent more than the July estimate, but the prospect is still 5 percent smaller than in 1943.

Plums and prunes, at 365,700 bushels, show only a slight increase over 1943, but,

if present prospects materialize, the 1944 peach crop, at 1,712,000 bushels, will be the second largest on record, being exceeded only by the large crop in 1942. Production of apricots, grown only in British Columbia, probably will be the largest on record, or 122,200 bushels. Cherries show a slight increase over the July estimate. The revised estimate places this year's crop at 214,200 bushels, compared with 216,700 bushels last year.

Grapes are estimated slightly higher than 1943, but the outlook is not as favorable as it was in July. The crop is now estimated at 54,913,500 pounds. Estimated production of raspberries and strawberries also shows a reduction from the July forecast.

Prospects for vegetables are about the same as on July 1. Dry weather the first half of that month affected the quality of vegetables in eastern Canada, but subsequent rains brightened prospects. No reduction from the previous estimate is anticipated.

MALAGA RAISIN CROP  
STEADY

Production of Muscatel raisins, harvested in September, probably will be about the same as last year, or around 3,860 short tons. Growing conditions are satisfactory and grapes are plentiful. Current stocks of last season's output are estimated at 441 short tons. Stocks probably will be reduced to about 70 tons, since many raisins have been disposed of to wine distillers.

ACREAGE OF POTATOES IN  
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND DECREASED

The acreage planted to potatoes in Prince Edward Island in 1944 is indicated to be slightly below the goal of 40,500 acres, which is about 11 percent above the 1936-1940 average. Plantings were completed in good season and growth has been rapid all through July. No late blight is in evidence, but spraying has been general and larger-than-usual quantities of spray materials have been distributed.

The acreage entered for certification for the production of seed potatoes this

season totals 13,974 acres, or about 15 percent less than the 16,500 acres entered in 1943. About 7,071 acres of cobbles have been entered, 4,264 acres of Green Mountains, 1,620 acres of Katahdins, 974 acres of Sebago, and 45 acres of miscellaneous varieties. The majority of fields have passed the first inspection with practically no blight in evidence.

#### SPANISH ALMOND CROP NORMAL

The 1944 production of almonds in Malaga probably will be average, or about 4,960 short tons of shelled nut meats. Quality is expected to be up to standard. A bumper crop would have been produced this season but for the great damage suffered from cold winds in February and March. Damage was mainly in higher altitudes and along edges of hills. Carry-over from the 1943 crop is considerable, or around 1,400 tons, mostly in the hands of farmers and speculators.

#### SUGAR

##### PERUVIAN SUGAR PRODUCTION FORECAST AT 440,000 TONS

Sugar production in Peru during May and June totaled 55,000 short tons and made a total of 145,000 tons for the first 6 months of 1944. Production during the first 7 months of the year is usually at a relatively low seasonal rate, however, and is not a good indication of the total annual output. It is now estimated that the total 1944 production will reach 440,000 tons, compared with 410,000 tons in 1943. Growing conditions have been satisfactory this season to date, but there is a shortage of fertilizers and of labor.

Market conditions have continued favorable to producers, in that local demand has been increasing and sales to other Latin American Republics have been brisk. As a consequence, no surplus stocks of sugar have accumulated, and prices have advanced quite sharply. (At the end of June there were practically no unsold stocks in the country.) Recent export sales have been made at about \$3.40 per 100 pounds for raw sugar,

f.o.b. Peruvian ports. A year ago similar sales were made at \$2.80.

#### LIMITATIONS ON SUGARCANE PRODUCTION LIFTED IN GUATEMALA

An Executive Order of July 2, 1944, and published July 31, 1944, lifts the limitations previously in effect on the cultivation of sugarcane and the production of crude brown sugar (Panela) in Guatemala. This measure is designed to benefit the poorer classes, which consume brown sugar, and to provide certain facilities required by industries dependent on this product.

#### LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

##### SERIOUS OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE NEAR LIMA, PERU

An outbreak of a malignant form of foot and mouth disease in a dairy herd of 100 cows near Lima, Peru, has been reported recently. Seventeen of the cows died within 5 days after the disease was discovered. This is the first outbreak of the malignant form during the 2-1/2 years that Colonel Russell McNellis has spent in Peru as advisor to the Peruvian Veterinary Service.

##### UNITED KINGDOM PERMITS INCREASE IN MEAT CONTENT OF PORK SAUSAGE

The British Ministry of Food issued an Order July 3, 1944, requiring that the meat content of pork sausage and sausage meat (including pork slicing sausage) be increased from 37.5 to 50 percent (with a tolerance or margin of 2.5 percent below and 5 percent above). The meat content of beef sausage and sausage meat (including slicing sausage) will remain at 37.5 percent. The inclusion of 7.5 percent low-fat soya in pork and beef sausage and sausage meat is maintained in the new Order, which prohibits the use of any other soya product in pork and beef sausage, and of certain offals.

The maximum wholesale and retail prices of pork sausages and pork sausage meat are increased by 1-1/2d. (2.5 cents) per pound. Manufacture of sausage of the new meat content was permitted as of July 3.



**SOUTH AFRICAN MEAT CONTROL  
EXTENDED**

Meat control in South Africa was extended to cover the entire country as of July 5, 1944. The extension of the plan to every part of the Union is expected to be an improvement over the one put into operation May 10, 1944, in nine important urban centers, and which was based on the findings of the Meat Commission. At that time many of the major producers were reported to be dissatisfied with the official price ceilings and were withholding cattle from market or were selling at higher prices in rural areas, thus causing a continued acute shortage of meat in many urban areas of the Union.

The new Minister of Agriculture announced at the time controls went into effect in May that they would be extended throughout the country if animals withheld from the market were needed for food in the urban areas. With no other markets available, it is expected that producers will be compelled to sell to the Controller of Food at the prices fixed by the Government.

**NEW AUSTRALIAN WOOL CLIP  
EXPECTED TO BE SMALLER**

Early prospects indicate that the new Australian wool clip (the clip to be shorn mostly in the last half of this year) will not be as large as in other recent years. Grazing conditions in New South Wales, where approximately half the sheep in Australia are found, have been only indifferent to fair in the more important sheep areas. Greater than normal losses have been reported in the early shearing districts and it has been many years since prospects have been so generally unfavorable over much of the State. Conditions have improved in other States and are now satisfactory in Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria.

Wool production in 1943-44 probably reached 1,135 million pounds, including an estimated quantity exported on sheepskins. Including the 1943-44 clip, production in the 5 war years has exceeded the output of the 5 pre-war years by about 15 percent. The peak was evidently reached in 1941-42 with 1,167 million pounds.

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